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STATE OF MONTANA

STATE DOCUMENTS

JUL 12 1971

FORREST H. ANDERSON, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

EDWIN G. KELLNER, DIRECTOR



BOARD MEMBERS

JOHN M. CROSS, GLENDIVE, CHAIRMAN
ELLA MAE CROMER, BUTTE
WILLIS MCKEON, MALTA
DR. JOHN STRIZICH, HELENA
RICHARD V. BOTTOMLY, GREAT FALLS

MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

P. O. BOX 250
COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA 59912
RICHARD P. WALSH, SUPERINTENDENT

August 1, 1970

The Honorable Forrest H. Anderson
Governor
State of Montana
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Governor Anderson:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 82-4002,
R.C.M., 1947, there is transmitted herewith a report of the
Montana Veterans' Home covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1970.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES,
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Activities and Accomplishments

Acquisition of 36 passenger bus and use
Demolition of Old Men's Building built in 1910
Occupation of new quarters in March, 1970
Dedication of New Facility May 23, 1970
Little League and regulation size ball parks donated by community

Recommendations

Air condition kitchen
Tie in on city sewage treatment line
Nine Hole "Chip and Putt" golf course to be donated by community
Enlarge garden farming and beautify grounds
Continue planning for 26 bed nursing home facility and increase
domiciliary population

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard P. Walsh".

RICHARD P. WALSH
Superintendent

Montana State Library



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA
HONORABLE FORREST H. ANDERSON

FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED

June 30, 1970



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PRINCIPAL OFFICES AND OFFICERS

Montana Veterans' Home Advisory Board

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Home Address</u>
Howard Austin, Member	c/o Bank of Columbia Falls Columbia Falls
John Austin, Member	Austin Funeral Home Whitefish
Dr. W. F. Bennett, Member	Columbia Falls Clinic Columbia Falls
Darryl Black, Member (Employee)	Martin City
H. E. Burnell, Member	804 8th Avenue West Kalispell
Harris W. Endreson, Chairman	1219 5th Avenue West Columbia Falls
Melvin A. Kastella, Member	25 Central Avenue Whitefish
Reverend George Krieger, Member	7th Street and 2nd Avenue Columbia Falls
William H. Liddicoat, Member	169 3rd Avenue E. N. Columbia Falls
Sterling Rygg, Member	37 7th Street East Kalispell
George O. Siderius, Member	Somers Stage Kalispell
Fred Simpson, Member (Resident)	Box 250 Columbia Falls

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Richard P. Walsh, Superintendent
Jacqueline E. Armstrong, Accounting Clerk
Lily I. Harwood, Clerk Stenographer

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

LEGAL REFERENCES

The Montana Veterans' Home was established by an act of the State Legislature, Fourth Legislative Assembly, Article 10, Section 1, in 1895.

Amended by Chapter No. 199, Montana Session of Laws 1965, Senate Bill No. 7, Section 5, the Board shall: (1) Adopt general rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the government of the department. Such rules and regulations may govern and provide for (a) The admission, custody, transfer, and release of residents of institutions except as otherwise provided by law. c) The custody, expenditure, and receipt of moneys at institutions.

Section 20: The institution at Columbia Falls, Montana, is the "Montana Veterans' Home" and, as its primary function, provides home and subsistence for honorably discharged veterans. The department may also admit wives or widows of honorably discharged veterans to the Home if space allows.

Section 22: To be eligible for residence in the Montana Veterans' Home under the regulations prescribed by the State Department of Institutions a person shall:

(1) Be an honorably discharged veteran, or the wife or widow of a veteran, who served in the armed forces of the United States.

(2) Be an semi-invalid and have become unable to earn a livelihood as a result of the disability, and ambulatory.

(3) Have resided in Montana for a period of two (2) years immediately prior to making application for admittance.

(4) Not have been convicted of a felony or of a crime involving

Legal References, Continued

moral turpitude.

- (5) Not be an alcoholic or have a record of habitual inebriation.
- (6) If a woman, be fifty (50) years of age or older.

PRINCIPAL GOALS
AND
TEN YEAR LONG RANGE PROGRAM

Principal Goals

The principal goals of the Home for veterans, wives and widows are three-fold and encompass the programs of Administration, Care and Services, and Nursing Care.

Our goals for Administration are providing the State and Federal agencies with accurate records; anticipating, planning and budgeting for expenditures in a just manner; in general, coordinating efforts with the Department of Institutions, which is responsible for the institutions of the State of Montana, and cooperating with the purchasing, data processing central payroll divisions, controller's office, treasurer and various other departments under the Department of Administration.

The goal for Care and Services pertains to the residents and physical plant alike. We hope to involve the community in the activities of the Home. Many times in previous years the Home has been an island by itself, and few people knew or cared if it existed. The residents of the Home had a feeling of insecurity and that of being second class citizens.

The goal of it becoming a part of the community has a two-fold purpose. First, it will tend to raise the morale of the residents and give them a feeling of equality and a sense of pride

Principal Goals, Continued

in themselves and security through their declining years. Secondly, the Home will become a point of interest and the community can look to it with pride, knowing that they have been a part of it.

Another goal is to continue and expand the recreational program and also expand the hobbies and crafts.

Last, but not least, is to complete the first stages of the new nursing facility and to expand it as the need demands. There are nearly 100,000 veterans in the State of Montana, and within ten years the impact of World War II will be felt. We must be prepared to meet this influx when it arises.

Again, we must be mindful of Korea and South East Asia and be geared to care for these veterans as they become older and require help.

Ten Year Long Range ProgramBuilding Improvements and Planning1971-1973 Biennium

1. Concrete retaining wall and plumbing shopslab (near base of water tower)	4,000
2. Concrete retaining wall (south of annex to Old Main)	750
3. Water line replacement (need 6 inch in place of 4 inch)	3,500
4. Ditcher--self-propelled power trencher	4,000
5. Renovate Service Building	2,500
6. Greenhouse erection	<u>1,000</u>

15,750

1973-1975 Biennium

1. Roof replacement on Laundry & Machine Shop	4,500
2. Fencing--Clain Link--perimeter of grounds	3,000
3. Concrete walkways at New Facility	750
4. Automatic Fire Sprinkler System -- Fire Marshall's recommendation	<u>15,000 *</u>

23,250

1975-1977 Biennium

1. Nursing Home addition, 26 bed annex (50% Federal funds)	337,500
2. Roof repairs of Women's Building	2,000
3. 5000 ft. 2 inch irrigation pipe	3,300
4. 12 x 24 concrete block utility building at cemetery	<u>3,000</u>

345,800

1977-1979 Biennium

1. Renovate Annex to Old Main	10,000
2. Sidewalk and curbing rebuilding	3,400
3. Road completion and rebuilding	<u>10,000</u>

23,400

1979-1981 Biennium

1. Air conditioning of New Facility	30,000
2. Ten car carport for employees	3,500
3. River park stairway	<u>1,500</u>

35,000

TOTAL TEN YEAR PROGRAM\$443,200

Financing: Federal Funds 168,750
State Funds 274,450

* Number one priority--Long Range Building Program Account

MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

PROGRAM INVENTORY
AND
COST SUMMARY

Administration	25,967
Care and Services	109,472
General Services	<u>59,357</u>
	194,796

Patient Days

<u>Month</u>	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Non-Eligible Veterans</u>
July	1,318	259	31
August	1,637	294	31
September	1,715	284	30
October	1,865	296	60
November	1,798	320	60
December	1,805	280	62
January	1,816	287	62
February	1,565	305	56
March	1,582	341	54
April	1,624	360	60
May	1,626	344	43
June	<u>1,550</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>60</u>
	19,901	3,662	609
Total Days Care			24,172
Average Cost Per Day			\$8.06

MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

Major Accomplishments

1969 - 1970

Old fences and corrals have been torn out and replaced with chain link fence on about one third of the property. The Catholic cemetery association is tying into our fence and extending chain link fence around their cemetery property.

The Old Men's building was torn down without incident and the windows and doors saved to be used in construction of a greenhouse. Some bricks were used to build planters at the Cemetery. The work was done by local veterans' organizations.

The garden produce has been used extensively in cooking and a lot used for freezing and canning. All kinds of vegetables were raised, as well as strawberries and raspberries. Members picked Flathead cherries and wild huckleberries for jams and jellies made in our kitchen.

Two ball parks, Little League and regulation fields, were constructed with the joint cooperation of all local industry and civic organizations at no cost to the State. These are primarily for youth activities and the enjoyment of members watching the games. It is my theory that the more we can do to associate our members with the community, the happier they will be.

No problems were experienced with the move into the New

Page Two - Major Accomplishments continued.

Facility. The new policy of two to a room seems to be working out very well, as it not only provides companionship for each member, but they take the responsibility of looking after each other.

The native stone patio was not included in the initial construction plan, but we were able to build it out of construction funds, and it provides a pleasant, cool place for the members to sit during days and evenings. The planters and hanging flower baskets were donated by the VFW Auxiliary of Whitefish who also donated andirons and fireplace screen. New lawns and greens have been planted.

The State VFW Auxiliary furnished the Doctor's office with a stained oak desk and locking glass door medicine cabinet. District I VFW Auxiliary furnished the beauty parlor with a combination hair dryer and chair; also metal smoking stands with sand containers. Two of the local mortuaries donated beautiful brass standards and velveteen ropes for dividers for the dining hall.

The new bus is utilized daily to take members to town and back, also on scheduled trips, picnics, sight-seeing tours and events such as rodeos, fairs and so forth. It is much appreciated by all.

A new river park was built by the joint efforts of the American Legion, members of the Home, and Junior Chamber of Commerce, providing a pleasant, restful area with cement slabs for picnic tables. Fireplaces will be built this next year with volunteer help and donated materials. There is a new road to the park boat landing.

Page Three - Major Accomplishments continued.

Over two thousand feet of irrigation line for the gardens and boulevards has been installed by the Homes' personnel.

The Senior Citizens and the members of the Home have alternate parties. The general atmosphere of the membership is more relaxed and happy. Music is played on the dual-channel speaker system. The living room is furnished with ranch oak and is most attractive. Game room furniture and pool tables furnish the recreation room. Many compliments have been received on the cleanliness and beauty of the place.

The beautiful collie dog mascot given to the Home, and the other pets, including a singing canary bird, are proving popular with the members. Plans are in progress for three aquariums for goldfish and tropical fish. These were donated or saved for by members' Green Stamps.

The Dedication of the Montana Veterans' Home was a special day, well attended and the Home was honored by many distinguished guests including the Governor Forrest Anderson and former Governor Hugo Aronson. Many civic, fraternal, veterans', school, and religious groups participated and helped to make the occasion a success. We feel a milestone has been reached in providing a beautiful new Home for the members and they have been given a real reason to believe in the future of their days which will be spent here. This will include their later need for nursing home care which their declining years may require.

MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

An attempt is going to be made to expand the community involvement with the Home, not only civic and veterans' organizations in this area, but throughout the State of Montana.

A brochure is being prepared and is due off the press August 15th. This is being paid for by the VFW Districts from the entire State. The brochure is a pictorial publication and covers the history and future of the Montana Veterans' Home.

The Governor has commissioned Mr. Richard Mayer to present a schematic plan for the future development of the Home property which will give us a clearer view of our direction and over-all landscape planning.

There is a proposal to have a 9 hole "chip and putt" golf course which will be available for use to any of the members free, but a golf association would be formed in the community to take care of the construction and maintenance expense. This group has asked that at some future date they might discuss these proposals with the Board of the Department of Institutions.

Plans are to expand and update the fire protection of the entire Home. Only the New Facility has automatic fire sprinkling protection.

Plans are to expand the garden to plant five acres of potatoes next year. We find considerable waste in the potatoes we presently have, too much of the time. In the future a complete fencing of the Home is

Page two - Major Recommendations continued.

being planned with chain link fence, posts and top rails and access gates surrounding the entire perimeter of the grounds.

It is strongly recommended that air-conditioning be installed, as we have had two food service workers overcome by heat in the kitchen. There is not adequate air circulation at the present. These were classed as Industrial Accidents by the Home physician.

We are going to build a plumbing shop out of a retaining wall room with a river view patio above. We are also going to build a retaining wall on the river side of the New Men's building, which will also provide a rest area for the members.

We plan to tie in to the city of Columbia Falls sewer system this coming year, and hope this solves our sewage problems.

Plans are to expand the hobby and recreation facilities. We plan to renovate the old offices into more attractive rooms. One is presently being used as a snack room, the other an informal living room. The chapel and auditorium room is in good shape. We do plan to encourage various denominations to provide worship services on a voluntary basis.

Plans are to increase our present capacity to 112 domiciliary members in another year. We are looking forward to the new Nursing Facility, and plans are presently being firmed up for a 26 bed unit. We strongly recommend that this be doubled by the year 1976.

Richard P. Walsh
Superintendent

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMS

Administration

Correspondence, applications and admission of qualified members. Files, records, mail deliveries, address changes, federal forms, etc., involved. Recording passes, furloughs, etc. Switchboard, communications, reports, inventory, filing claims, Federal records, State records, budgets, etc. Information to public on Home and old records of members.

Care and Services

Feeding, laundering, medical services and seeing to the well being of male and female members of the Home. Looking after their interests and entertainment while ambulatory and self-sufficient. Care of property and equipment of Home to allow for good repair and life expectancy. Beautifying natural resources and improving where possible.

Nursing Care

Aiding in a beneficent manner the non-ambulatory members of the Home whose health problems are such that they must reside in a nursing home. Maintain a clean and cheerful home with friendly, capable persons interested in caring for aged and unfortunate veterans, wives and widows.

ACHIEVEMENTS

I feel the greatest achievement in many years has been insuring the continuance of the Home, through an act of Legislature to build the New Facility. This modern and efficient building is a three-finger design off a central rectangle. The "fingers" house sixty-two domiciliary residents, two to a room. Each room has a lavatory with a toilet between rooms. Each wing has a men and womens' toilet, bathtub and shower room.

In the central rectangle are the recreation room, lounge, dining room, kitchen and solarium on one side of a central hall-corridor. On the inside portion, adjacent to the hall, are the nursing station, administrative offices, library, television rooms, hobby room, beauty and barber shops.

One room with a private bath is for a woman resident confined to a wheel chair. She was admitted to the Home in April, 1939, by a special act of Legislature, and has provided many services through artistic hobbies and crafts through the years, and is presently sending out "thank you" notes to various organizations.

I have enumerated some of the achievements and accomplishments in this report concerning the furnishings donated to the beauty shop, lounge, fireplace and patio; the work on the river park and the community-donated ball fields. Untold hours of labor, heavy equipment usage and materials constructing the bleachers, ball diamonds, fencing and toilet facilities have been donated to the State.

Achievements, Continued

Through the help of the fine county librarian we have established an attractive and useful library. Also, we are being provided with talking records for members who have poor eyesight.

The Home now has pets, dogs, cats, a singing yellow canary, goldfish and tropical fish aquariums in addition to the long-time native squirrel pets that the members enjoy. We have a greenhouse as a goal, and saved the glass and doors from the Old Men's Building for that purpose. We feel a good sized greenhouse will be a real asset to the Home in general.

Much time has been spent on the Home cemetery, both by members and personnel. All can view with pride the watered, well cared for lawns and flower beds. An updated cemetery plot was drawn by a draftsman member of the Home, who also headed a project for a relief map of the northwestern section of the United States. This huge map represents many hundreds of hours of work on the part of many persons, and was sponsored in part by the State in furnishing the New Facility.

I feel a general, improved attitude during the past year on the part of the residents of the Home, although there is room for more improvement. Every problem connected with personnel has been taken into consideration, and we have had a very small percentage of turnover in our employees. We are achieving an atmosphere of tranquility, little by little, and as a target, hope for eventual communication on

Achievements, Continued

all levels. We aim for a smoothly run organization which fullfills the requirements of service to the members in a humanitarian and compassionate manner.

I feel much progress has been made in the area of communication with the local citizens and interested persons, not only in Columbia Falls, Whitefish and Kalispell, but throughout the State. This Home is tax-supported by the citizens of Montana, and their visits with the members are encouraged. We have guests' registers at each entrance, and welcome all who take their time to stop and tour the buildings and grounds.

MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1969-70

SALARIES & BENEFITS

Administration	21,433
Care & Custody	75,136
General Services	<u>36,780</u>
	133,349

OPERATIONS

Administration	4,534
Care & Custody	34,336
General Services	<u>22,577</u>

61,447

CAPITAL

10,990

CAPITAL - Renovation Fund Balance

2,010

NEW FACILITY

168,022

375,818

TOTAL COST OF OPERATIONS

194,796

Total Patient Days of Care 24,172

Average Daily Cost

8.06

Total Population: Men and Women Members Aug. 1970

74

